

FINAL
EDITION

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

FINAL

35c

Wednesday, February 22, 1989

Phoenix, Arizona

99th year, No. 280

Drop in rural 'baby doctors' hits crisis level in Arizona

Mofford orders DHS transport for prenatal care

By Peter Alshire

The Arizona Republic

A decrease in obstetricians and family practitioners who deliver babies has reached crisis proportions in rural areas of Arizona, according to an emergency report by a special governor's task force and a survey of the state's doctors.

The Governor's Task Force on Maternal and Child Health, created by the state Department of Health Services on Tuesday to immediately set up a system for bringing women from rural areas of the state into larger

cities for prenatal care, Gov. Rose Mofford responded immediately to the recommendation and ordered DHS Director Ted Williams to set up an emergency system to provide transportation of women in rural areas for prenatal care when no doctor is available.

Coincidentally, the first-ever statewide survey of doctors delivering babies also was released Tuesday. That survey revealed that the number of doctors who provide prenatal care and deliver babies in Arizona has dropped to 288, a nearly 7 percent decline in the past two years. There were 63,000 babies born in Arizona in 1987, the latest year for which statistics are available.

Rural counties are in especially dire straits. There are only two

perinatal-care doctors each for Pinal, Apache and Santa Cruz counties, and four doctors each for Coconino, Gila and Yavapai counties, according to the survey by the Arizona chapter of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"I was surprised," said Dr. Thomas Abdalla, a Phoenix obstetrician who analyzed the survey results. "I figured the number of doctors would have leveled off. I didn't think it was dropping so fast."

Paul Bender, dean of Arizona State University's law school and head of the governor's task force studying medical-malpractice reform, said, "Arizona has always been pretty bad when it comes to providing prenatal care, but it's clear we're getting much worse."

RURAL OBSTETRICS

The number of doctors delivering babies in selected rural counties in 1988 and the number who quit from 1970 to 1988.

County	No. Quit
Apache	2
Cochise	8
Coconino	4
Gila	4
Graham	5
Maricopa	5
Navajo	7
Pinal	2
Santa Cruz	2
Yavapai	4
Yuma	5

Source: American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Bender said babies are dying needlessly and suffering horrendously expensive complications as a result of the growing shortage of doctors who provide prenatal care, especially in rural areas.

— See REPUBLIC, page A10

Obscenity prosecutors get weapon

Racketeer laws ruled applicable

By John Winters

The Arizona Republic

The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that anti-racketeering laws may be applied to obscenity cases, a decision that a Phoenix attorney predicted will "be like an H-bomb to the obscenity industry."

The ruling, which stems from a case involving several bookstores in Indiana, permits law-enforcement officials to close outlets peddling materials found in court to be obscene and to seize assets derived from the sale of the materials.

Arizona prosecutors said the ruling provides them with a potent weapon in obscenity cases.

In an opinion by Justice Byron White, the court said the anti-racketeering law, which subjects adult-bookstore and video-shop owners to penalties as severe as those for drug dealers and mobsters, does not violate the First Amendment right of free expression. The vote was 6-3.

Once it is demonstrated that some of the materials are obscene, the entire operation involving any similar materials can be shut down, according to the ruling.

The court also found that none of the materials can be seized by law-enforcement authorities before a court ruling. In the Indiana case, the bookstores were padlocked and their

— See REPUBLIC, page A10

Iran yanks envoys out of Europe

Republic Wire Services

Iran recalled all of its ambassadors from European Common Market nations Tuesday, and Britain expelled an Iranian envoy as the diplomatic battle grew over Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death threats against author Salman Rushdie.

In the escalating diplomatic fallout from Khomeini's order that Rushdie

DEFIANCE: A U.S. writers group urges protests. E7

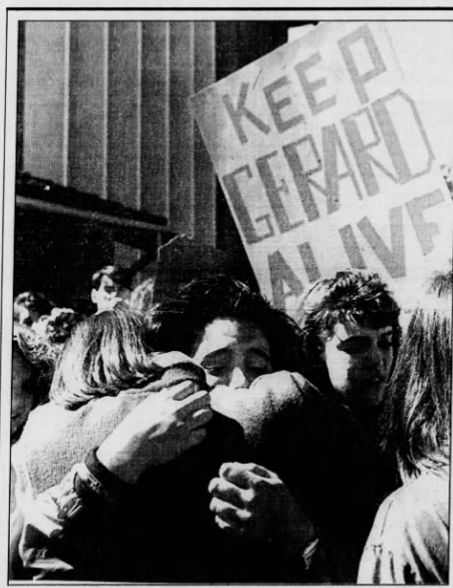
be killed for writing "The Satanic Verses," President Bush said he supports the retaliatory moves by the European countries.

Rush, in Washington, declared that Iran "can expect to be held accountable" if the threats lead to attacks on American interests. Iranian state-media have extended the threat against Rushdie to those who promote sales of the book.

"However offensive that book may be, inciting murder and offering rewards for its perpetration are deeply offensive to the norms of civilized behavior," Bush said.

Bush applauded the Monday decision by the Common Market nations to recall their ambassadors from Iran, but declined to endorse further action

— See REPUBLIC, page A8



SCHOOL DISPUTE / Gerard High School students at St. Simon and Jude Cathedral protest plans to close their school. The students Tuesday confronted Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien, who announced Friday that the Phoenix school will close because of climbing expenses. STORY, B1.

Navajo leader granted order blocking his ouster by council

But impartiality of judge called into question

By Bill Donovan

Arizona Republic Correspondent

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Chairman Peter MacDonald took his fight to retain his office to tribal court Tuesday and won a temporary restraining order against council action to put him on leave.

After yielding to the judge's ruling, the Tribal Council allowed MacDonald's vice chairman to assume the presiding role at its winter session. Many council delegates, however, questioned whether the court has jurisdiction and challenged the impartiality of the judge, who is related to MacDonald through marriage.

The restraining order was made by District Judge Harry Brown of Kayenta, who also ordered mem-

bers of the council to take no other action that would take away any of MacDonald's powers until a hearing can be held in Kayenta on Friday at 9 a.m.

Leonard Haskie, a council delegate from San Juan, N.M., and a spokesman for the anti-MacDonald faction in the council, said the

— See REPUBLIC, page A11

Lawyers fire first shots in North trial

Defendant is 'abandoned' hero or 'liar'

By Harry F. Rosenthal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The courtroom phase of Oliver North's criminal trial opened Tuesday, with the prosecutor portraying the defendant as a liar who "places himself above the law" and North's lawyer defending him as a patriotic Marine who unflinchingly obeyed the orders of his commander in chief.

North, now retired from the service, listened intently as prosecutor John Keiser told the jury that the lieutenant colonel had lost time and again to his president and to Congress about the Iranian-contra affair.

Chief defense lawyer Brendan Sullivan countered that North, a former top National Security Council aide, worked in a secret world where "he always acted with the approval of his superiors, he acted always with the best interests of his country."

Sullivan portrayed North as a patriot "abandoned by his government" when the Iranian-contra scandal unraveled and threatened to stain the Reagan presidency.

When the administration solicited aid from other countries in early 1984 to skirt a congressional ban on official U.S. aid to the rebels, Sullivan said, President Reagan was so obsessed with secrecy that he told his aides, "If this leaks out, we'll all be hanging by

THE CHARGES AGAINST NORTH

All are felony counts and all carry five-year prison terms and fines up to \$250,000, except as noted.

- 1. Obstruction of Congress in September and October 1985.
- 2. False statements to Congress on Sept. 5, 1985.
- 3. False statements to Congress on Sept. 12, 1985.
- 4. Obstruction of Congress in August 1986.
- 5. Obstruction of Congress in November 1986.
- 6. Obstruction of a presidential inquiry in November 1986.
- 7. False statements Nov. 23, 1986.
- 8. Destroying or falsifying government documents. (Three-year imprisonment and \$250,000 fine.)
- 9. Receipt of an illegal gratuity. (Two-year imprisonment and \$250,000 fine.)
- 10. Conversion of traveler's checks to personal use. (Ten-year imprisonment, \$250,000 fine.)
- 11. Conspiracy to defraud the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service.

Source: The Associated Press

our thumbs outside the White House."

Thus, the two sides squared off for the off-delayed first trial to come out of the Iranian-contra affair, a trial that may last up to five months.

North is charged with lying to Congress, destroying official documents, tax fraud and accepting illegal

— See REPUBLIC, page A2

Fed will act again to hike interest rates

Japan is No. 1 economic power, Americans say

By Richard Morin

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans believe that Japan has become the world's leading economic power, and large majorities think Japanese workers and companies are superior to their American counterparts, according to a Washington Post-ABC News Poll.

Fifty-four percent of those interviewed named Japan as the "strongest economic power in the world today," the poll says. Only 29 percent named the Soviet Union and 1 percent named West Germany.

The American public still views the United States as the world's strongest military power. Sixty-one percent said this country leads in terms of military strength, while 32 percent named the Soviet Union.

But more than 40 percent of Americans consider Japan's economic strength a greater threat to U.S. security than Soviet military power.

The Post-ABC Poll, conducted on the eve of President Bush's trip to Japan for the funeral of Emperor

— See REPUBLIC, page A8

Agency moving to check threat of inflation rise

Republic Wire Services

WASHINGTON — Interest rates soon will rise again on loans that finance everything from home mortgages to business expansion, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board said Tuesday.

Inflation is accelerating and projected to go higher in 1989, Alan

Greenspan said.

"The current rate of inflation, let alone an increase, is not acceptable."

Greenspan told the Senate Banking Committee that is "troubling" and "unsustainable" to the Fed, he added.

Consequently, the Fed intends to use its powers over money and credit to fight inflation more vigorously by slowing the economy, Greenspan said. He would not indicate how much interest rates might increase.

— See REPUBLIC, page A10

INSIDE

INDEX

Asteroid D1
Bridge E10
Business C1
Calendar E3
Comics E9, D8
Dear Abby D12
Editorial A12
Food D11
Hutton E2
Legislation B3
Life & Leisure E1
Movies B1
Movies E6
Obituaries D14
Puzzles D1
Solutions D1
Sports E1
Television E8
Weather A4

Tower tales torpedoed

President Bush declares that the FBI "gummed down" charges against John

Tower with an exhaustive probe. A4.

Mecham's stunning news

Former Gov. Evan Mecham will address the American People's Party

at a meeting in which co-Kansas David Duke also is to speak. B1.

Today's prayer: Thank you, Lord, for your trust in us. Amen.

Today's chuckle: Sign on a tire store: Highway Robbery.

Today's weather: Sunny, High 80, Low 52. Tuesday: High 75, Low 51.

humidity, high 35 percent, low 13-121. F1.

Weatherline® — 957-8700



Suns guard Jeff Hornacek tosses in a career-high 32 points as Phoenix garners the Golden State Warriors 139-121. F1.



Michael Meister/The Arizona Republic

After morning service at SS. Simon and Jude Cathedral, Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien circulates among nearly 150 Gerard High School students protesting plans to close their school. The bishop blames the closure on climbing operating costs and declining enrollment.

Students angry over closure of school protest to bishop

By Karen McCowan
The Arizona Republic

As children from other Valley Catholic schools sang and danced at a special Mass honoring Catholic Education Week, nearly 150 Gerard High School students wore black armbands Tuesday to protest plans to close their school in June.

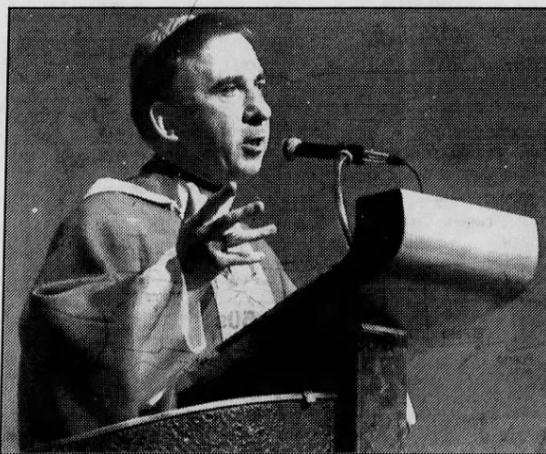
"Keep Gerard alive," dozens of students chanted as Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien emerged from the morning service at SS. Simon and Jude Cathedral in west Phoenix.

"I wish we could," O'Brien replied as he passed through a group of students in red-and-gray letterman jackets, school uniforms and T-shirts.

"You can, it's up to you!" student Ann Marie Ronga shot back as the bishop moved on.

O'Brien announced the closure in a letter Friday to parents of Gerard students, blaming climbing operating costs and declining enrollment. He also promised to discuss the decision with students today at a 10 a.m. assembly at Gerard High and later with parents at a 7:30 p.m. meeting in Thomas More Hall.

Before classes Tuesday, more than 200 Gerard students and their parents picketed in front of the



During a Mass to mark Catholic Education Week, Bishop O'Brien said, "There is a school community in our midst that is hurting."

school, at 2252 N. 44th St., from 6 to 8 a.m. Some carried signs reading, "Save our family," and, "Gerard is our home."

Many students said they were protesting not only the closure but the way it was handled by the

Phoenix Diocese.

"Bishop O'Brien gave us his word twice that the school wouldn't close for at least another four or five years," said Bobby Dalton, 16, a junior and three-sport letterman.

— See STUDENTS, page B4

ALL EDITIONS

B4 The Arizona Republic Wednesday, February 22, 1989

Students protest school closing

— STUDENTS, from page B1

"I guess his word doesn't mean much anymore."

At graduation ceremonies in May and at a Christmas Mass he celebrated at the school, O'Brien denied rumors that Gerard would be closing, Dalton said.

O'Brien acknowledged he made those promises. In a response through diocesan spokeswoman Marge Injasoulion, the bishop said the situation changed in recent weeks.

"Yes, that is true," he was quoted as saying.

"I had honest hopes and beliefs that the school would remain open. Those sentiments were based upon the information I had at that time. It was certainly a different situation than it is now, because of the continuing decline in enrollment and increase in operating costs.

"I think everyone should understand that situations do change. I know this is very painful for everybody."

In his letter to parents, O'Brien said the decision to close Gerard "is final" and was based on the recommendation of a committee commis-

sioned to study Catholic schools in the diocese. He has declined comment on the closure plans until he meets with Gerard students and parents today.

Injasoulion said other area Catholic high schools — Brophy College Preparatory, Xavier, St. Mary's and Bourgade in Phoenix and Seton in Chandler — are expected to remain open.

That was little solace to Gerard students, particularly juniors like Dalton, who said they are worried about finding another high school.

"With sports and stuff, it will be hard to break in elsewhere and learn their ways," said Lee Ferrance, 17, a junior and three-sport letterman.

Students say they expect their classmates to scatter among nearby public schools and other Valley Catholic high schools.

"It's a shame," said sophomore Sonja Andrade, 15.

"This is a good school. What it lacks in size, it makes up in togetherness and closeness. Now they're going to break us up."

Parents said they can understand that there are financial problems because enrollment at Gerard has dwindled from about 650 students in

the early 1970s to about 250 this year. But they say they were led to believe by O'Brien and Gerard administrators that the diocese was committed to keeping the school open.

"My daughter just got the class ring and letter jacket she ordered two months ago — now she's supposed to throw them in a closet?" parent Kathy Spade asked.

"Tell me the bishop didn't know about this last fall when the kids were ordering these things."

Parents feel "lied to and betrayed," said Art Ferrance, Lee's father.

"Gerard is a very liquid asset being used to solve other parish problems," he said.

During his homily Tuesday, O'Brien drew sarcastic laughter from many Gerard students when he noted that the theme of this year's national Catholic Education Week was "Communities with Memories."

In his only reference to the impending closure at Tuesday's Mass, O'Brien said, "There is a school community in our midst that is hurting."

He urged students from other Catholic schools to reach out to and pray for the Gerard students.